

In re Patent Application of:
KELVIN TODD EVANS
Serial No. 10/620,283
Filing Date: 7/15/2003

Remarks

Applicant and the undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for his efforts and guidance in the examination of this application. The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) and have been amended as described in the attached annotated sheets and in the above presented In The Drawings section. Claim 1-18 and 20-23 were objected to for including informalities and have been amended as suggested by the Examiner, along with amendments to Paragraphs 20 and 21 in the Detailed Description section, to more clearly describe the invention. Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,988,943 to McCord. Claims 1-23 remain in the case. New Claims 24-33 are added by this amendment. No new matter is added.

By way of example for support of the claims as amended, and with reference to the specification (par 25) and drawings (see FIG. 3), effluent (60) from the septic tank is retained with effluent retention areas proximate each of the distribution ports. Without deviating from the invention, and without adding new matter, "girth" has been stricken from the claims to more clearly describe what the Applicant believe to be invention and now more clearly distinguishes over the prior art. The claims have been amended to include the feature that the elongate tubular body has at least one effluent retention portion and at least one conduit portion formed therein, wherein an inner cross-sectional

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area of the elongate tubular member for the at least one effluent retention portion is greater than the inner cross section area for the at least one conduit portion such that fluid entering the elongate tubular member is retained within the effluent retention portion during use of the manifold having the longitudinal axis generally horizontal.

Neither the McCord '943 reference nor any known prior art reference discloses the structure herein presented by the Applicant for the claims in the case. Further, there is no suggestion for such a structure.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments place this application in a condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully solicited. The Applicant and the undersigned would like to again thank the Examiner for his efforts and guidance provided in the examination of this application and for reconsideration of the claims now in the case. If the further prosecution of the application can be facilitated through telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWING SHEET
(S/N 10/620,283)

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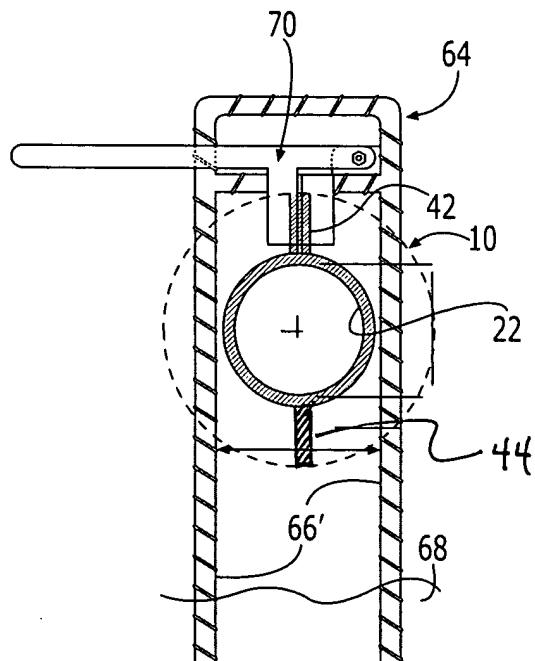


FIG. 10

ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS SHEET
(S/N 10/620,283)

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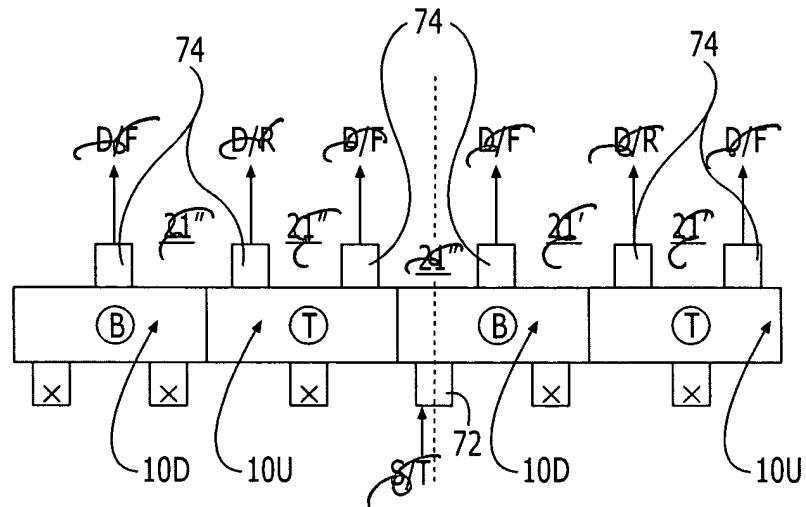


FIG. 11

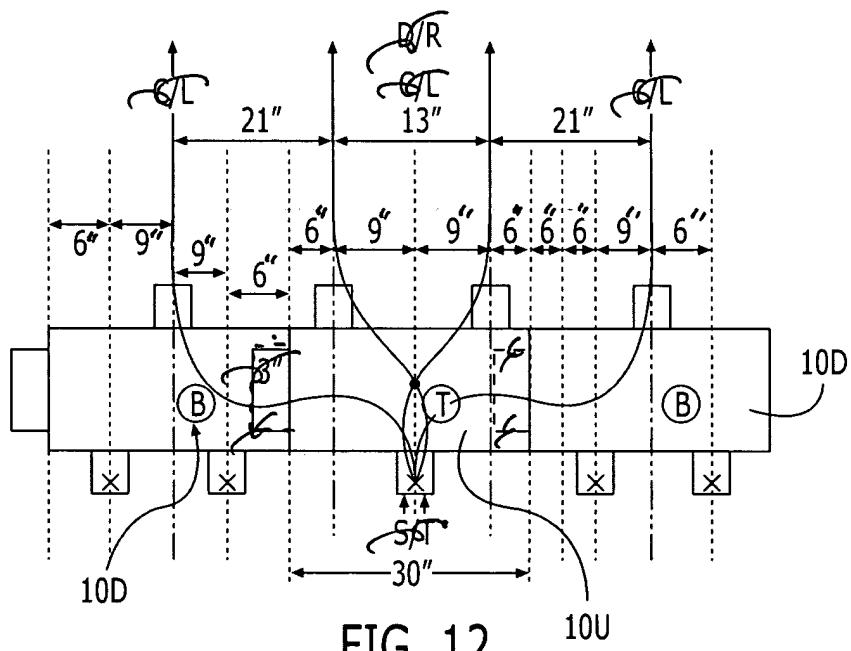


FIG. 12